

Tentative Conclusions

Workshop on transboundary flood risk management

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United Nations Economic
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Ministry of Transport,
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Management of the
Netherlands



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
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World
Meteorological
Organization

General issues

- Floods can have beneficial effects if managed properly and on a river basin scale
- The flood risk management cycle should form the basis for comprehensive cooperation
- Lessons from past experiences should be assessed, documented and taken into account in the flood risk cycle, but also shared with other countries
- Various layers and opportunities are available to establish transboundary cooperation
- consider and implement the already existing frameworks (e.g. EU directives, UNECE Water convention etc.) which provide a good framework for transboundary flood risk management

General issues

- Methodologies, technology and knowledge are available (EXCIFF, EXCIMAP, IFM Helpdesk etc.) and should be widely distributed and adapted to local situations
- Climate change represents a new challenge, but also a new opportunity for joint research and adaptation planning in consultation
- Effective mechanisms of Stakeholder involvement in decision-making is required
- Transparency on possible sources of financing needs to be improved
- Reallocation of flood risk and financial resources

Session 2: Joint flood forecasting and warning/ exchange of data

- Parallel process required: both technical cooperation as well as institutional/political cooperation.
- to build confidence amongst partners on a technical level, establish regional infrastructures for joint flood forecasting and joint studies
- Data exchange needs an agreed framework
- need for identifying jointly data and knowledge gaps and needs
- some technical capacity is already established, but convention could help to institutionalize cooperation
- Discuss possible extension of EFAS to non-EU countries

Session 3: joint flood risk management planning and implementation

- All riparian countries should be involved in cooperation
- Common understanding of problems is essential as a first step and a vision on common objectives
- Joint bodies are needed as forum for planning basin flood management plans
- Agreement is required on the sharing of flood risks and questions of compensation
- Cooperation is required at and between different administrative levels (horizontally and vertically)
- EU directives such as EU WFD and flood directive should be applied, involving neighbouring non-EU countries

Session 4: institutional and legal arrangements for cooperation

- start to cooperate and build trust at technical expert level (bottom up), to push for cooperation at the political level
- establishing a joint legal framework is needed to sustain cooperation (top down)
- Flood management should be embedded into the overall joint integrated water resources management in the basin (specific questions may be regulated by a specific Protocol)
- Formal agreements for cooperation should not be static, but allow for flexibility, especially concerning the terms of reference of joint bodies
- agreements should incorporate a cross-sectoral approach

Follow-up

- Pilot projects are needed
- The gaps and needs regarding flood management could be assessed by a survey
- Technical cooperation is often working- the Water Convention should help to provide a forum for political negotiations
- Regional workshops to improve flood management could be useful
- Capacity building and training for technical and decision making level

Thank you!

All presentations will be made available on:

http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary_flood_workshop.htm